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LET US CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ON EASTER SUNDAY

Wednesday, April 4, 2007
Volume 20
Number 12

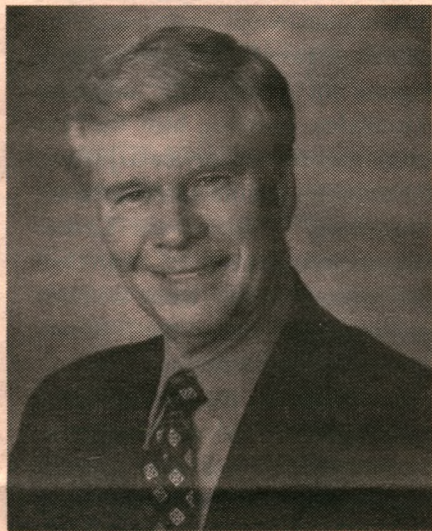


HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

San Bernardino ♦ Riverside ♦ Colton ♦ Rialto ♦ Fontana ♦ Moreno Valley
Ontario ♦ Corona ♦ Bloomington ♦ Rancho Cucamonga ♦ Highland ♦ Redlands

GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER APPOINTS DAVID LONG SECRETARY OF EDUCATION



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Riverside County Superintendent of Education David Long as secretary of education.

"David will add tremendous knowledge and skill to our great education team and I know he will work in a bipartisan effort to make sure our kids come out on top," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I am excited to work with David on improving student achievement, bringing up low-performing schools, hiring and keeping quality teachers, building new facilities, promoting career tech, increasing accountability and helping kids pass the high school exit exam.

Long has more than 40 years of experience in the field of education. Since 1999, he has served as the superintendent of schools for Riverside County where he oversees 23 school districts and more than 400,000 students. He previously was the superintendent for the Lake Elsinore Unified School District from 1992 to 1999 and held the same position with the Banning Unified School District from 1989 to 1992.

Prior to becoming superintendent, Long was assistant superintendent for Mason City Community Schools in Mason City, Iowa from 1987 to 1989; principal of Roosevelt Middle School from 1985 to 1987; associate principal for Mason City High

School from 1982 to 1985; and began teaching in 1961 as an instructor at Sheffield High School in Sheffield, Iowa.

Long serves on the Board of Directors for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, and is immediate past-president; serves as chair of the Federal Education Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Advisory Committee, directly reporting to U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings; serves as a commissioner for the First 5 Commission of Riverside; and chair of United Way Educational Countywide.

Long also initiated an annual Educational Summit in Riverside County, with last year's attendance of over 450 educators, legislators and community leaders to address key issues facing Riverside schools.

"I am privileged to be able to continue to serve the many students of California as secretary of education," said Long. "I look forward to working with the Governor to ensure every Californian receives the best possible education and every teacher and faculty member is provided the tools and resources needed to make that happen."

Long, 67, of Canyon Lake, earned a Doctorate degree in educational administration from Iowa State University, a Masters degree in physical education from Missouri State College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education from the University of Northern Iowa.

The position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$175,000. Long is a Republican. The Office of the Secretary of Education is the primary education advisor to the Governor and is committed to support the Governor's policies that ensure access to quality education for all Californians.

REP. BACA CALLS FOR CHANGE OF COURSE AS IRAQ WAR ENTERS FIFTH YEAR

Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives passed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act (H.R. 1591) by a 218-212 margin.

Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) voted for the legislation. Rep. Baca voted against the Iraq War in 2002 and asserted that it is long past time to set a new direction for American policy in Iraq.

He said, "The Iraq war is now entering its fifth year — already longer than U.S. participation in World War II, World War I, the Korean War, or the Civil War. The war is increasingly straining our military and has created a genuine crisis in U.S. troop readiness and our ability to respond to new threats. The price we have paid is high - with more than 3,000 U.S. troops dead, more than 20,000 U.S. troops wounded, and more than \$400 billion of taxpayer dollars appropriated."

"The American people spoke with their votes in the November election, demanding a new direction in Iraq," said Rep. Baca. "The American people clearly rejected the President Bush's open-ended commitment to a failed strategy. I am proud that by passing this legislation Congress is holding the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government accountable and

setting a responsible timeline for bringing American troops home."

Rep. Baca added, "House Democrats are fulfilling our promise for a New Direction, by offering a plan that provides for a change in course on Iraq," said Rep. Baca. "Our plan protects our troops on the battlefield and at home, addresses the troop readiness crisis by making sure troops are better equipped and trained, and provides much needed funding for military housing to meet the needs of military families who are sacrificing along with their loved ones in harm's way.

Rep. Baca, a veteran who served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper with both the 101st and the 82nd Airborne Divisions from 1966-68, also pointed out that the bill addresses the nation's veterans' health care crisis, by including \$1.7 billion more than the President requested to improve VA health care facilities and to make sure veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan receive adequate and timely care. "Many brave young Americans are suffering severe physical injuries and post-traumatic stress as a result of their service. They need and deserve to be cared for, and we will make sure they are," he said.

DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB SCHEDULE

Democratic Luncheon Club holds weekly meeting every Friday at 12:00 pm at the Democratic Club Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall, and San Bernardino

Schedule

- April 13 - Jesse Valenzuela: The life of Cesar Chavez
- April 20 - Ron Fletcher: Area vice president, Substitute Teachers Union, Communication Workers of America
- April 27 - Lou Herz, Past Rialto School Board Member; Substitute Teaching

RECORD NUMBER OF COUNTY SCHOOLS EARN TITLE I ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SAN BERNARDINO -- A record 23 San Bernardino County schools were named 2006-07 Title I Academic Achievement Award recipients today, announced Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Juniper Elementary in the Hesperia Unified School District is being recognized for the fourth consecutive year. Richardson Prep Hi in San Bernardino City Unified has achieved the state recognition for three consecutive years.

The 23 county schools and their districts receiving Title I Academic Achievement are: Desert Knolls and Sandia elementaries, Apple Valley Unified; Skyline North and Thomson elementaries, Barstow Unified; North Shore Elementary, Bear Valley Unified; Los Serranos and Newman elementaries, Chino Valley Unified; Hollyvale and Juniper elementaries, Hesperia Unified School District; Condor, Onaga and Twentynine Palm elementaries, Morongo Unified School District; Edison Elementary, Ontario-Montclair Elementary School District; Cope Middle and Bryn Mawr, Mentone and McKinley elementaries, Redlands Unified; Hughbanks Elementary, Rialto Unified; Richardson Prep High Middle, San Bernardino City Unified School District; Pinon Hills

Elementary, Snowline Joint Unified School District; Citrus Elementary, Upland Unified; Sixth Street Prep, Victor Elementary School District; and Calimesa Elementary, Yucaipa-Calimesa Unified.

"I am thrilled with the 23 schools from San Bernardino County who have been named Title I Academic Achievement recipients," County Superintendent Herbert Fischer said. "These schools' high-quality educational programs are a credit to students, staff, teachers, administrators and district leadership."

Statewide, there were 476 schools who received the recognition out of nearly 6,000 Title I schools in California. Title I is one of the programs under the federal No Child Left behind Act designed to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. For a list of all the state's Title I Academic Achievement schools, visit the California Department of Education's Web site at www.cde.ca.gov.

WALTER SCHWARTZ NAMED SBCSS' ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SAN BERNARDINO -- San Bernardino County Superintendent Herbert Fischer announced the selection of Walter Schwartz as the new assistant superintendent of Human Resources for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS). Schwartz will begin work at County Schools on July 1.

"Mr. Schwartz has tremendous experience in personnel matters, and a true desire to do what's best for students. With more than 34 years in education, he brings outstanding knowledge of personnel matters for both classified and certificated employees to our county office," Fischer said. "I know our staff, students and districts will benefit from his expertise and leadership."

The assistant superintendent of Human Resources for County Schools is a cabinet level executive position that is responsible for all areas of certificated and classified employee recruitment, selection, employment, transfer, promotion and separation. He will also supervise the County's credential monitoring services.

PROMINENT LATINO ORGANIZATIONS SILENT ON ALBERTO GONZALES

By Roberto Lovato-New America Media

Alberto Gonzales is the first Latino Attorney General in U.S. history and was once endorsed by many pre-eminent Latino organizations. Those same organizations now remain silent on his recent troubles.

NEW YORK - The recent scandal involving the firing of eight U.S. attorneys by U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has yielded mostly silence from the country's pre-eminent Latino organizations.

Gonzales is the first Latino Attorney General in U.S. history and many of those same Latino organizations heavily endorsed him when he was up for confirmation.

The silence among the mostly Washington, D.C.-based organizations contrasts strikingly with testimony in Senate hearings, press conferences and other public statements in support of Gonzales when he was nominated by President Bush in 2005.

"We have not taken a public position on the firing controversy," said Lisa Navarrete, vice president of the Office of Public Information at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest Latino advocacy group in the country.

But during his confirmation hearings, NCLR President and CEO Janet Murguía wrote in a letter to then Senate Judiciary Chair Arlen Specter: "Not only is Judge Gonzales a compelling American success story, it is also clear that few candidates for this post have been as well qualified."

During the same hearing, Ray Velarde, then national legal advisor to the League of United Latin American Citizens, one of the oldest Latino civil rights organizations in the country, stated that, "there is no question that he (Gonzales) is as eminently qualified, balanced and principled a nominee as the Senate is likely to see."

But when contacted this week, Lizette Olmos, communications director with the League said that her organization had, "not taken a position on the [controversy], but will

discuss it at a board meeting."

Dallin Lykins, communications specialist with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which represents more than two million Latino-owned businesses in the United States, said, "At this time we really don't have comments to make about that issue."

During his confirmation hearings, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's then-president and CEO, Armando Ojeda, praised Gonzales as an "inspirational example of what is possible to achieve in this great country."

During the recent controversy, the Chamber released a statement asking Congress not to rush to the judgment of Gonzales, praising him for "his patriotic and devout service to justice, legal equality and the administration of our laws." Calls to the Latino Coalition, a conservative Latino civil rights organization, went without response as did calls to the National Hispanic Bar Association.

The silence on the part of major Latino organizations with regard to Gonzales' scandal is a "sad comment on national Latino leadership," says Antonio Gonzalez, President of the William C. Velásquez Institute, a research and public policy organization focusing on Latino leadership.

The Institute has come out in support of further investigation into the recent allegations around the firing of the prosecutors. "We have to have a standard that applies to Latinos and non-Latinos, one that's rooted in ideals like constitutionality, justice, equality and freedom. If, in fact, these allegations are true, then he needs to resign," says Gonzalez, whose organization remained neutral on the Attorney General nomination because of "concerns about the allegations involving the (legal) facilitation of torture."

The one national Latino organization that didn't support Alberto Gonzales before or after the current controversy, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, was unavailable for official response.

"We can't just celebrate the good times," Gonzalez says. "We also have to be willing to speak when things are bad." Despite the lack of response from Latino leaders around the calls for the Attorney General's resignation, Gonzalez of the Velásquez Institute believes that it's not too late. "I call on my colleagues to take a position. They need to take their heads out of the sand. I'm confident that they eventually will."



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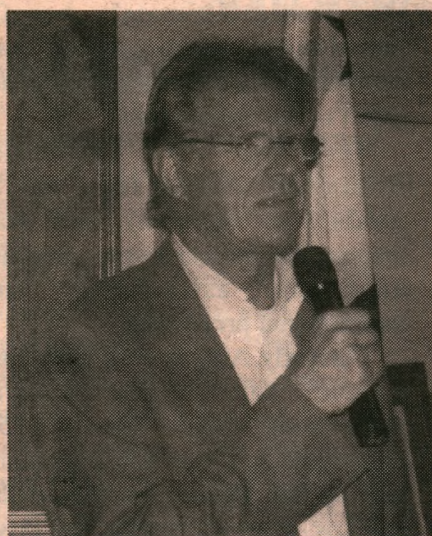
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INLAND EMPIRE CELEBRATES CESAR CHAVEZ DAY



Ed. Bagley, Jr. well-known actor, was the keynote speaker at the 5th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Celebration at the American Legion Post 650, Redlands. Bagley, a close friend of Chavez, was one of the pallbearers at Chavez' funeral on April 23, 1993. Photo by IEHN



Sally Salas spoke at the 5th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Celebration on her experiences as a child growing up in a farm worker's family of 14 children, and enduring the lack of basic necessities. She spoke of her father speaking to the children on the struggles of Chavez in fighting for the rights of farm workers. Photo by IEHN



St. Mary's Ballet Folklorico concluded the 5th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Celebration with regional dances of Mexico. Photo by IEHN

REDLANDS- The American Legion Post 650 was crowded with over 200 admirers of the late Cesar Chavez, including city and law enforcement officials, north side residents and students, to participate in the Cesar E. Chavez Breakfast Celebration on March 30, 2007, sponsored by the City of Redlands' Human Relation Commission and co-sponsored by area businesses and firefighters association.

"I never knew Mahatma Gandhi, I never knew Dr. Martin Luther King, I never knew Mother Teresa, but I knew Cesar Chavez," stated Ed.

Begley Jr., the well-known actor and keynote speaker. Begley related that in the 1980's, during the grape boycotts and protest of toxic pesticides on the grape field, that he met Chavez in a coffee shop on Sepulveda Boulevard in Los Angeles. "I was so impressed by his modesty and his way of life, and after our introductions and discussions, we developed a friendship that lasted a lifetime." Begley worked with Chavez throughout the years on pesticide issues, and the continued

struggle for the farm workers right for unionization. At Chavez's death on April 23, 1993, Begley was one of the pallbearers.

"Chavez died the way he lived, modest in every way, fasting during the protests, which jeopardized his health, contributing to his death," Bagley said.

Sally Salas, a City of Redlands employee, spoke of the ordeals of her father working the grape fields to provide for a wife and 14 children. "My father told us about Cesar

Chavez and his struggles to give us the necessities of life. My brother and I would play between the rows of grapevines, and chase the crop dusters overhead, not knowing that the pesticides were a harmful chemical," she said. Salas told the attentive audience that Chavez was fighting for the rights of the farm workers to be treated like humans.

The St. Mary's Ballet Folklorico entertained the audience with regional dances of Mexico.



Christine Chavez, granddaughter of the late Cesar Chavez, co-founder and president of the United Farm Workers Union, was the keynote speaker at the 8th Annual Latino Network Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Breakfast at the Zacatecas Café, Riverside. Photo by IEHN

RIVERSIDE - An enthusiastic audience of community leaders and students greeted Christine Chavez, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, at the Zacatecas Café, Riverside, and the keynote speakers for the 8th Annual Latino Network Cesar Chavez Memorial Breakfast on Thursday, March 29th, 2007.

Chavez, a seasoned labor worker started in the United Farm Workers Union with her grandfather at the age



Poly High School students attended the 8th Annual Latino Network Cesar Chavez Breakfast at the Zacatecas Café, Riverside. Seated (l to r) Reyna Trevino, Elizabeth Padilla, Giselle Mendez, Caroline Garrett, and Ryan Ochoa. Photo by IEHN

of four. "While other children were growing up playing with their toys, I grew up marching, boycotting, and handing out union paraphernalia." At that age, she said, during the grape boycott in Detroit, she and her family were arrested for refusing to leave a store that sold grapes.

"My cousins and I were very close to my grandfather. He was a gentle, loving person, with a philosophy of non-violence, but a determined mission of improving the lot of the farm workers with a livable and healthy environment and adequate wages, and primarily for their human rights of all individuals. My

grandfather's mission was our total mission in life."

Chavez said that her grandfather stressed the prime attribute of serving those who were unable to serve themselves. "He taught all of us (grandchildren) that service to others was the highest ideal. She quoted the following: *"Being of service is not enough. You must become a servant of the people. And in the service to others, it is the most spiritual and highest form of freedom that must carry the greatest measure of discipline, responsibility, and leadership."*

Chavez commitment's has

included working with the SEIU, Local 1877; helped the UNITE HERE Local 11's battle with the hotel industry; organized and helped in rallies in support of the UFCW's a protracted Southern California strike; helped candidates in elections, legislative activities, and organize public outreach efforts. She is currently district director for State Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero.

INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS SALUTES WOMEN'S MONTH

**MYRIAM ARAGON**

Myriam Aragon is an exceptionally articulate person who has accepted many challenges in life. A native of Columbia, Aragon earned a PhD. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Valle, Columbia; there after decided to immigrate to the United States at the suggestion of her fiancé. Arriving in Houston with an education, her challenge was to learn the English language in order to continue postgraduate courses. She ultimately married, and accepted a job at a child care center, determined also to learn English and pass the English Proficiency Exam, a requisite

for licensing preparation.

She was employed as an elementary teacher in California, and also counseling while earning a second Masters in Clinical Psychology.

A mother of two, Aragon continued to seek career changes in Southern California. She began employment at the Try-City Mental Health in Pomona. The responsibilities included program planning, supervision, evaluating personnel, representing the clinic in the community, interagency meeting, crisis intervention, and group therapy.

In 2001, she began as an adjunct professor of Multicultural Counseling at University of LaVerne, and appointed 2002 as clinical therapist for the San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health.

Continuing to challenge the many obstacles, including language barriers, and excelling in her professional career, Dr. Aragon was recognized in November, 2006, by the Statewide Association of Mental Health Directors, receiving the Cultural Competence Award: Eliminating Disparities, Effective and Equitable Care.

**TRINA WILLIAMS GARCIA**

Trina Williams Garcia is a single mother who knows first hand of the barriers found on the road to self sufficiency. She was a re-entry student, and is now a graduate of Cal-State, San Bernardino, raising an 11-year old son, and runs a Family Resource Center on the grounds of the Breezewood Apartments.

Project Access is a new concept in Riverside County. The program bridges the low-income housing

community with the resources in the surrounding areas being located on the grounds of a low income housing facility in Riverside's Northside Community.

The center offers the residence a variety of services including classes in computer literacy, job readiness, nutrition, parenting, ESL, homework assistance, reading program and recreational programs.

Garcia takes community services to the next level by not only bringing county/city resources directly to residents, but also assists in exploring the process to provide assistance for each family to become self sufficient.

In one year, Garcia has assisted 60 families with thanksgiving dinner, and additional agencies being available to the Northside through the community fair.

Garcia's philosophy of "if someone needs it, I'll find it" has made an immediate lasting impact on the lives of the residents of the Breezewood Apartments.

**RUTH ARGUMENDO**

Ruth Argumendo was born in Glendale, California, a child of Mexican immigrant parents. As a young adult, she joined ORS Medical Group, handling Worker's Compensation and civil cases.

Argumendo received a Paralegal Degree from Pasadena City College and moved to Washington, D.C. and employed as assistant to the vice president of the International Disaster and Relief Agency, responsible to their world-wide legal projects.

She had an opportunity to coordinate and successfully organize a two-week, habitat educational event drawing 250,000 visitors to the Mall in Washington. This opportunity presented a realization that her passion and talent was in working with people and coordinating events

that would ultimately benefit individuals, organizations, and communities, a continued passion that exists to the present time.

Returning to California, Argumendo worked for a media production company and was responsible for numerous elaborate marketing assignments and international broadcasts.

Currently, Argumendo is marketing director for LaSalle Medical Associates, with nearly 150 employees and over 150 physicians serving San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. Her drive and experience has contributed to LaSalle being recognized as a leader in the areas that they serve. The medical group sees over 100,000 patients per year and averages 150 community-based outreach events in the Inland Empire, and an additional 30 events in East Los Angeles.

In 2006, Argumendo was honored by Senator Nell Soto, Congressman Joe Baca Sr. and Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr. for her community involvement in the "Women Making History" dinner. In September, 2006, she received the "Women Making a Difference" Award, also certificates of recognition by Assemblywomen Gloria Negrete McLeod and County Supervisor Josie Gonzales for community work in the County of San Bernardino.

NCLR JOINS WITH REP. HILDA SOLIS AND NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY TO LAUNCH NEW LATINO INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., will partner with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy on a new education and outreach initiative aimed at Latino teens and young adults. The launch of the new initiative was announced today at a news conference on Capitol Hill featuring Representative Hilda Solis (D-CA).

"Nearly half of Latinas become pregnant before age 20. High teen pregnancy rates are robbing our young women of too many opportunities – the opportunity to go to college, the opportunity to start a rewarding career, and the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of a better future," stated Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO.

"Unplanned and unprotected sex also poses serious health risks for Latinas. That's why we welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with Representative Solis and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen

Pregnancy on this issue," continued Murguía.

"The National Campaign has been a key leader in the successful effort to reduce overall teen pregnancy rates in our country. The new Latino initiative will build on this track record of success and zero in on the specific themes, messages, and approaches we need to reach Hispanic young people, especially those overlooked by traditional mainstream efforts," Murguía said.

"We commend Representative Solis for her passion and leadership on this issue. I can think of no better champion than Hilda Solis to spearhead our efforts on Capitol Hill," noted Murguía.

"The National Campaign has involved Hispanic community-based organizations and substantive experts at every phase, and on every level, of this campaign. They're going about this exactly the right way, which gives me great confidence that we can successfully reverse the teen pregnancy crisis in our community," concluded Murguía.

SALE REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

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FAVORABLE JOB MARKET EXPECTED FOR SAN BERNARDINO

March 13, 2007 – San Bernardino area employers expect to hire at a respectable pace during the second quarter of 2007, according to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey.

From April to June, 30% of the companies interviewed plan to hire more employees, while 10% expect to reduce their payrolls, according to Manpower spokesperson Evelyn Wilcox. Another 50% expect to maintain their current staff levels and 10% are not certain of their hiring plans.

"San Bernardino area employers expect less favorable hiring conditions than in the first quarter when 40% of the companies interviewed intended to add staff, and 13% planned to reduce headcount," said Wilcox. "By comparison, employer hiring intentions are also more modest than they were a year ago when 40% of companies surveyed thought job gains were likely and 13% intended to cut back."

For the coming quarter, job prospects appear best in Transportation/Public Utilities, Services and Public Administration. Employers in Durable Goods Manufacturing and Wholesale/Retail

Trade voice mixed hiring intentions while those in Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing are unsure of their staffing plans. Hiring in Construction, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate and Education is expected to remain unchanged.

At the national level, U.S. employers anticipate that job prospects will ease slightly during the second quarter of 2007, according to the seasonally adjusted survey results. Looking back at the last four quarters of data, a clear softening trend emerges, indicating that employers are growing somewhat hesitant about adding staff.

Of the 14,000 U.S. employers surveyed, 28% expect to increase payrolls during the second quarter of 2007, while 7% expect to trim staff levels. Fifty-nine percent expect no change in the hiring pace, and 6% are undecided about their hiring plans.

About Manpower Inc.

• Manpower Inc. operates under five brands: Manpower, Manpower Professional, Elan, Jefferson Wells and Right Management. More information on Manpower Inc. is available at www.manpower.com and www.us.manpower.com.

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THE SUN



S.B. COUNTY SCHOOLS RECEIVES DUAL ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS

SAN BERNARDINO — Representatives from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) will be among the recipients for two 2006-07 awards at the Association of California School Administrators' Region 12 Spring Celebration event scheduled for April 23, 2007.

The SBCSS honorees include: Phil Mirci, director of Family Involvement and High School Programs for Curriculum and Instruction and Ron Williams, coordinator for the Center for the Advancement of Smaller Learning Communities for Curriculum and Instruction.

In addition, County Superintendent Herbert Fischer and Legislative Analyst Janey Kozlowski will be recognized as special guests at the Spring Celebration.

The Region 12 awards will honor 17 individuals and groups and will be held at the University of Redlands' Orton Center.

Deadline date for registration is April 15, 2007; cost is \$15 including dinner. Submit check to Louise Bigbie, 1651 Kingsport Drive, Riverside, CA 92506. For information call at (909) 780-2820.

HISPANIC LIFESTYLE-LATINA CONFERENCE

Ontario Airport Hilton, Ontario
April 13, 2007

8:00 am - 9:00 am: Networking/exhibitors
9:00 am - Welcome:

Mistress of Ceremonies Actress Yenifer Behrens,
Josie Gonzales, San Bernardino County Supervisor,
Norma Torres, Mayor of Pomona

9:30 am - Panel discussion "Community"

10:15 am - Panel discussion "Family"

11:00 am - Panel discussion "You"

12:15 pm - Luncheon keynote address:

Cristina Perez of Christina's Court

Rodri Rodriguez, Producer Mariachi USA

1:45 pm - Seminar sessions • Finances • Business

2:30 pm - Door prizes

For information and application visit www.HISPANICSTYLE.com
or call at (951) 940-9099

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Test Time: 8:00 a.m.

Test Location: 175 West 5th Street-San Bernardino-Ca.

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NEW CENTER REPORT: FOREIGN GUEST WORKERS ROUTINELY EXPLOITED BY U.S. EMPLOYERS

By David Bacon-Southern Poverty Law Center

Guest workers who come to the United States are routinely cheated out of wages; forced to mortgage their futures to obtain low-wage, temporary jobs; held virtually captive by employers who seize their documents; forced to live in squalid conditions; and denied medical benefits for injuries, according to a new report released by the Center today.

The report — Close to Slavery: Guest worker Programs in the United States — comes as Congress is about to begin debating immigration legislation that could greatly expand guest worker programs to cover hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of new temporary foreign workers.

"Congress should reform our broken immigration system, but reform should not rely on creating a vast new guest worker program," said Mary Bauer, director of the SPLC's Immigrant Justice Project and author of the report. "The current program is shamefully abusive in practice, and there is almost no enforcement of

worker rights."

The 48-page report, based on interviews with thousands of guest workers and dozens of legal cases, describes the systematic abuse of workers under what is known as the H-2 system administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. The program was created in 1943 to allow the sugar cane industry to bring in temporary workers and was revised by Congress in 1986 to include non-agricultural workers.

Employers in 2005 "imported" more than 121,000 temporary H-2 guest workers — 32,000 H-2A workers for agricultural work and 89,000 H-2B workers for jobs in forestry, seafood processing, landscaping, construction and other non-agricultural industries.

"Guest workers are usually poor people who are lured here by the promise of decent jobs," Bauer said. "But all too often, their dreams are based on lies, their hopes shattered by the reality of a system that treats them as commodities. They're the disposable workers of the global

economy."

Hugo Martin Recinos-Recinos, a former guest worker from Guatemala, borrowed thousands of dollars to pay recruiting fees for a forestry job in the United States. "I had to leave the deed to my home," he said. "When I got to the U.S., I was always underpaid, living in small hotel rooms and working 10-hour days. The debt from my recruitment and travel to the States made the low pay even harder to bear. When I filed a lawsuit about the conditions, my family and I were threatened. The guest worker program was abuse from beginning to end."

The most fundamental problem with the H-2 system is that employers hold all the cards. They decide which workers can come to the United States and which cannot. They decide whether a worker can stay in this country. They usually decide where and under what conditions workers live and how they travel.

Guest workers are typically powerless to enforce their rights. "If guest workers complain about abuses, they face deportation, blacklisting or other retaliation," the report says.

"Guest workers don't enjoy the most basic protections of a free labor market — the ability to change jobs

if they are cheated or abused by their employer," Bauer said.

The rights that H-2 workers do have exist mostly on paper. The federal government has failed to protect them from unscrupulous employers, and most cannot obtain private legal assistance to enforce their rights through the courts.

The report concludes that the H-2 guest worker program should not serve as a model for immigration reform, but in fact should be overhauled if allowed to continue. It offers specific recommendations to remedy the worst abuses.

"The mistreatment of temporary foreign workers in America today is one of the major civil rights issues of our time," said SPLC President Richard Cohen. "For too long, we've reaped the economic benefits of their labor but have ignored the incredible degree of abuse and exploitation they endure."

"Congress now has an opportunity to right this terrible wrong. As part of the reform of our broken immigration system, Congress should eliminate the current H-2 system entirely or commit to making it a fair program with strong worker protections that are vigorously enforced."



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- Preparing work schedules to accomplish all routine maintenance and projects.
- Supervising repair and maintenance of ground irrigation system.
- Communicating with Superintendent on a daily basis to coordinate all golf course activity.
- Ensuring OSHA safety procedures are adhered to and conducting ongoing safety training.

Qualifications:

- Working knowledge of the maintenance of golf course tees, fairways, green.
- Minimum two years golf course experience preferred. **Turf management education may be substituted for a portion of the work experience.**
- Demonstrated experience with computer irrigation systems.

Our desert oasis resort is located 120 miles NW of Las Vegas, NV and 275 miles NE of Los Angeles, CA in Death Valley National Park, CA. Our golf course was listed as one of America's 50 toughest courses in the March 2007 issue of *Golf Digest*.

In 2007 our course was recognized for Environmental Excellence for achieving designation as a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System

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SENATOR GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD JOINS WITH COMMUNITY GROUP FOR FREE FORECLOSURE WORKSHOP

The American Dream has become a nightmare for too many Inland Empire residents. Home foreclosures in San Bernardino and Riverside counties are more than double the national average and third highest among the nation's 10 largest metropolitan areas.

In an effort to help homeowners avoid mortgage default, or to provide them with options if they are facing foreclosure, Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod is teaming up with the non-profit Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services to offer a free foreclosure workshop to Inland Empire homeowners. The workshop will be held at the Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services office at 320 West "G" St., Suite 103, on Friday, April 13, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Ontario.

"Homes are springing up in the Inland Empire faster than almost anywhere in the nation, and many of those buying are first time homebuyers," Negrete McLeod said. "But as the market slows and adjustable interest rates go up, it is

the first-time homebuyers that tend to be the most vulnerable to default and foreclosures."

Most recent figures show that the foreclosure rate in the Inland Empire increased 52 percent in August, 2006, according to RealtyTrac, which publishes the largest database of pre-foreclosure and foreclosure properties in the nation.

The figure is higher than the foreclosure rate in Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Phoenix, Chicago, Washington and Philadelphia. Only Dallas and Atlanta had higher rates. "With the proper education, many of these foreclosures could have been avoided," Negrete McLeod said.

While foreclosure rates are still well below the levels of the mid-90s, experts expect the rate to continue to climb.

"With the efforts of organizations such as Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, hopefully we can save the American dream for Inland Empire homeowners," Negrete McLeod said.

SENATOR MCLEOD/ASSEMBLY MEMBER CARTER TO HOLD HIV/AIDS LEADERSHIP FORUM

Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, 32nd State Senate District, and Assembly Person Wilmer Carter, 62nd Assembly District, announced a joint leadership forum to be held at the Rialto Senior Center, 1411 Riverside Avenue, Rialto, California, to be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007, with a continental breakfast at 9:30 am.

In a joint announcement, the legislators stated, "As community leaders and elected officials, we have the opportunity to bring awareness to our constituency with this timely and important community forum. As legislators we want to be aware if current or past legislation is meeting the needs of the communities."

In San Bernardino County, reported cases of HIV and AIDS have grown significantly over the last five years, while a lack of access to health services and information along with the prevalent stigma that surrounds HIV and AIDS that thwarts treatment and prevention.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, minorities make up: three of every

five new cases in men, and four out of every five new cases in women and children. These statistics provide a sobering and troubling picture of how HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect minorities in our communities.

Residents attending the forum are urged to submit concerns and ideas on how to address these issues and ways to deal with the problem in the inland communities.

RSVP are requested by calling (909) 381-3832 or (909) 820-5008.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR S.B. COUNTY GRAND JURY

Volunteers for the 2007-2008 San Bernardino County Grand Jury are being requested, announced Larry W. Allen, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Successful applicants will serve as grand jurors for the period beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2009.

The requirements for applicants are at least 18 years of age, United States citizen, resident of California and County of San Bernardino for at least one year, must possess sufficient knowledge of the English language, natural facilities and ordinary intelligent, sound judgment, and good character.

Grand jurors serve an average of

three to four working days per week, compensated with \$25 per day, plus meals and mileage. The Grand Jury meets in the City of San Bernardino.

The Grand Jury investigates every aspect of county, city, and special district governments, hears information on certain criminal investigations, and communications to the Grand Jury are confidential.

For information call at (909) 387-4230, to request applications, or obtain at the County Courtside, 351 No. Arrowhead Av., San Bernardino, CA 92415-0243, or request by mail. Deadline date: April 20, 2007. Further information on the web: www.sbcounty.gov/grandjury.



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United Way of the Inland Valleys



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Based on earnings and family size, you could be eligible to receive as much as \$4,500 from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) when you file your income taxes this year! Best of all—it won't cost you a thing!

This FREE service is available to families with a total household income under \$40,000. HURRY! This FREE tax preparation service will end on April 14, 2007.

What to bring:

-  Social Security or ITIN cards for each household member
-  Valid photo identification: drivers license, passport, etc.
-  W2 & 1099 forms for each job worked in 2006
-  End of year statements for other income you received in 2006 (bank statement, unemployment, social security, etc.)
-  Child care provider name, address and tax ID number
-  A copy of your 2005 federal tax return

For the location of a FREE tax site near you dial 211 or contact Community Action Partnership of Riverside County at 951.955.4900

DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANT COMMITTEE
Invites the public to a film screening
Saturday, April 14th, 2007, at 3:00 pm
Feldheym Central Library
555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino
In 1993, the United States began to seal its border with Mexico. People have been dying ever since.

CROSSING ARIZONA
Where do we draw the line?
Discussion facilitated by the director and producer will follow the screening.
For additional information, call the Office of Social Concerns at (909) 885-7101
Rainlake film, produced and directed by Joseph Mathews and Dan DeVito. www.crossingaz.com
www.rainlake.com

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**INLAND EMPIRE
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April 18th

INLAND EMPIRE SCHOLARSHIP FUND'S 9TH AWARDS DINNER

University of California, Riverside-Student
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Saturday, April 28th, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Master of Ceremony- Sid Garcia, KABC

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Bil HR Asst 2,829.92 mo, Bil Instr Tutor LH/PH \$13.96/ hr

Carpenter 3,120.86 mo, Clerical/Bil. 2,280.38 mo

Computer Specialist (Mac/PC) 3,060.84 mo

Education/Instr Asst \$11.03 hr

Environmental Safety Officer 273.51 per diem

Food Services \$10.20 hr, HR Officer I 253.89 per diem

HVACR Mech 3,310.60 mo, Maint Worker 2,466.46 mo

Media Tech 2,667.72 mo, Nursing Asst 16.98 hr

Nutrition Chef 225.38 per diem

Nutrition Services Mgr 162.93 per diem

Painter 3,210.86 mo, Payroll Tech 2829.92 mo

Plumber 3,183.28 mo, Police Officer 3,510.54 mo

Secretarial/Bil 2,515.80 mo, Sheet Metal Worker 3,310.60 mo

Speech Lang. Asst 2,667.72 mo, Sub. Nursing Asst 16.98 /hr

Sal & Bil diff. based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Bil.diff: \$50.00 per mo. Positions are continuous Benefits: M/D/V/L + PERS; SL - based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Apply: SBCUSD, HR-Classified, 777 N F St, San Bernardino, (909)880-6800. For more info, visit our website at <http://www.sbcusd.com> AAE/EO

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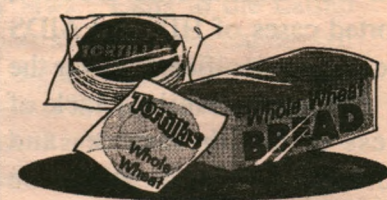
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Look & Feel Better

Try whole grains
such as corn tortillas,
whole wheat tortillas
and whole wheat
bread.



A message from California Department of Health Services funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Department of Public Health Nutrition Program Human Services System County of San Bernardino Project: LBN and the Nutrition Research Grant: #99-85867

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The Heart Of A
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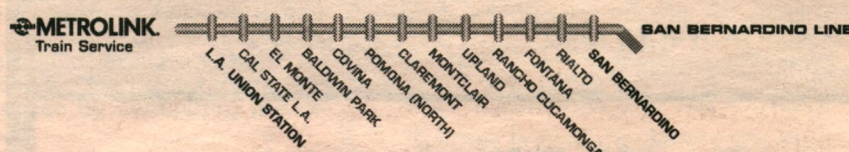
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